

Library.

HEALTH

C 130000

OR

54

WELLINGBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the

YEAR 1959



P. X. BERMINGHAM, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Together with the Annual Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector

A. J. STROUD, F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

WELLINGBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the

YEAR 1959



P. X. BERMINGHAM, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Together with the Annual Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector

A. J. STROUD, F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30243452>

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Ambulance Service	11
Area	9
Atmospheric Pollutions and Smoke Abatement	16, 48
Births	9
Cerebro Spinal Fever	24
Chief Public Health Inspector's Report	39
Clearance Areas	45
Clinics and Treatment Centres	11
Deaths	9
Diphtheria	23
Diphtheria Prophylaxis	23
Disinfection	15
Drainage and Sewerage	59
Dysentery	24
Erysipelas	24
Factories Acts	28, 60
Food—Inspection and Supervision of Food Premises	52
Hospital Accommodation	11
Housing	18, 45
Ice Cream	21, 53
Infant Mortality	10
Infectious Diseases	23, 59
influenza	24
Laboratory Facilities	11
Maternal Mortality	9
Measles	24
Meat and Food Inspection	21, 54
Milk Supplies and Samples	21, 53
Moveable Dwellings	16, 59
National Assistance Act	12
Neo-Natal Mortality	10
Nursing in the Home	11
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	25
Pneumonia	24
Poliomyelitis	24
Population	9
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act	60
Public Cleansing	16
Public Health Officers	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	24
Rag Flock	60
Scarlet Fever	23
Sewage	14
Slaughterhouses, etc.	54
Smallpox	23
Statistical Tables	29—37
Swimming Baths	15
Tuberculosis	26
Vaccination	23
Verminous Disinfestation	61
Water Supply	14
Whooping Cough	24

WELLINGBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1959

Area (in acres)	..	..	..	..	..	..	8,738
Population 1951 (census)	..	..	..	..	..	..	28,222
Population 1959	..	..	..	..	..	..	29,740
Number of separate dwellings occupied 1931 (census)	..	..					5,396
Number of separate dwellings occupied 1959 (31.3.60)						..	9,785
Rateable Value 1959 (31.3.60)	..	..	..	..	..	..	£387,392
Product of a penny rate (31.3.60)	..	..	..	..	..	..	£1,560

LIVE BIRTHS.					<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Rate</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	457	214	243	
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	34	19	15	
					491	233	258	16.50

STILLBIRTHS.					<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Rate</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	8	4	4	
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	2	—	2	
					10	4	6	0.33

					<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Rate</i>
DEATHS (all causes)	..	..	..		387	199	188	13.01

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES— rate per 1,000.

Total (Live and Still) Births								
Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	..				—	—	—	
Other puerperal causes	..	..			—	—	—	Nil

INFANT MORTALITY—rate for 1,000 live births.

Legitimate	..	..	..	..	16	7	9	
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
					16	7	9	32.58

Deaths from (a) Cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	65
„ „ (b) Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
„ „ (c) Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
„ „ (d) Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil

Wellingborough Urban District Council

Members of the Public Health and General Purposes Committee :

MESSRS. R. ALDERSON (*Chairman*), C. B. BROWN, A. E. DICKS, L. J. MANNING, R. K. MYNARD, R. J. ODELL, R. D. PATERSON, L. B. PENTLOW, E. A. STEELE AND H. C. L. WARWICK. **B. KIRBY.**

Public Health Officer of the Local Authority :

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

P. X. BERMINGHAM, M.B., B.CH., B.A.O., D.P.H.

also holds appointments of

Medical Officer of Health, Borough of Higham Ferrers.

Medical Officer of Health, Rushden Urban District Council.

Medical Officer of Health, Irthlingborough Urban District Council.

Medical Officer of Health, Wellingborough Rural District Council.

School Medical Officer.

Secretary :

MISS J. PEARSON.

Chief Public Health Inspector, Meat Inspector, etc. :

A. J. STROUD, F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., Certified Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Additional Public Health Inspector :

D. B. HOPKINS, M.A.P.H.I., Certified Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Telephone :
Wellingborough 2446 (Office)
Rushden 2810 (Home)

Health Department,
Swanspool,
Wellingborough.

July, 1960

To the Chairman and Members of the Wellingborough Urban District Council :

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. CARTER AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my twelfth annual report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the District for the year 1959.

The report is set out in the usual sections and the last Section, H, contains ten statistical tables which contain interesting information.

In this letter I will refer briefly to items of interest in the different chapters.

In Section A the Vital Statistics for the year will be found and it will be seen that the birth rate 16.50 per 1,000 population was slightly higher than the previous year when it was 16.40. The death rate showed a fall on the previous year and was 13.01 per 1,000 of population compared with 14.13. Table No. 2 in Section H gives information about deaths from selected causes. From this table it will be seen that again diseases of the heart and circulatory system was the greatest cause of death, 198 deaths were due to this cause and the rate was 6.65 per thousand of population. Coronary disease and angina was the cause of 60 deaths and Table No. 1 in the same section shows that 35 deaths were in males and 25 in females. Once again female deaths from this cause approximate in numbers to male deaths. Compared with the previous year the number of deaths from diseases of the heart and circulatory system showed a fall of 36. Cancer deaths were slightly up, 65 compared with 62 and the rate per 1,000 of population was 2.18. The number of deaths from malignant neoplasm of lung or bronchus showed a fall, 5 compared with 12 and all deaths were in males. Deaths from bronchitis, pneumonia and other respiratory diseases showed a marked rise and were 54 compared with 37 in the previous year. This gave a rate of 1.81 per 1,000 of population and was the highest rate recorded to my knowledge for many years. In last year's annual report I stated that the death rate in Great Britain from bronchitis exceeds by far that of any other country making comparable returns and that this is connected with the amount of atmospheric pollution which occurs throughout the country. The connection between the two is established and so every effort must be made to prevent pollution of the atmosphere. The infant mortality rate was 32.58 per 1,000 live births and was considerably higher than the previous year when the rate was 14.49. The causes of infant deaths will be found in Table No. 9 in Section H. There were two deaths from respiratory tuberculosis and in the previous year there were also two deaths but one was due to non-respiratory tuberculosis.

Information concerning the health services available in the area will be found in Section B. Reference is also made to the welfare of old folk and the problems associated with old folk living on their own. A visiting service is most useful in helping old people and also in the prevention of a crisis by early action.

The next Section, C, gives an account of the sanitary circumstances of the area and details concerning the water supply to the town and sewage disposal methods are given. The Finedon sewage disposal method is not giving satisfaction but a scheme is being drawn up by the consultant engineer to bring the sewage to Wellingborough and for it to be treated with the Wellingbrough sewage. Information will also be found with regard to atmospheric pollution and the results of readings of the different gauges and instruments kept during the year. An account of the building programme and the progress made with Slum Clearance is given in Section D. Progress is being made with the demolition of houses in confirmed clearance areas.

Inspection and supervision of Food is the subject matter of Section E and the results of samples taken for examination will be found. A noticeable decrease in the total weight of meat and offal condemned as unfit for human consumption occurred and it would appear that already the good effects of the Ministry's campaign against tuberculosis is beginning to show and less carcasses have to be condemned on this account.

The number of cases of infectious diseases and vaccination and immunisation figures will be found in Section F. An account of an epidemic of diarrhoea and vomiting is also given. The vaccination figures showed a fall but the response to immunisation against poliomyelitis is quite good. However, the age range for this has now been raised to 40 years and it is to be hoped that adults will avail of the opportunity to seek protection against this infectious disease. Reference is made to a case of Weil's disease and the action taken. It was pleasing to note that no further cases occurred. Vaccination and Immunisation figures for the area were supplied to me by the County Medical Officer of Health to whom I am grateful for this information.

In conclusion I should like to take this opportunity of thanking all persons who supplied information for this report and I have appended a list of acknowledgments. I would also like to thank the officers of the Council for their help throughout the year and Miss Pearson for her assistance in compiling this report. Finally I should like to express my appreciation to the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their help and encouragement throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

P. X. BERMINGHAM,

Medical Officer of Health.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I wish to express my thanks to the following for information supplied and contained in this report :

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

SURVEYOR AND ENGINEER

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

HOUSING MANAGER

TREASURER.

SECTION A.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

AREA.—Wellingborough Urban District covers 8,737 acres. The density of population is 3.4 persons per acre.

POPULATION.—The Registrar General in his returns for 1959 gives the population of Wellingborough as 29,740 which is an increase of 300 on the previous year. The natural increase, i.e. the number of births compared with deaths during the year was 104.

DEATHS.—387 deaths occurred during the year which gives a rate of 13.01 per 1,000 of population compared with 14.13 for the previous year. The rate for England and Wales for 1959 was 11.6.

A classification of the causes of death is given in Table No. 1 Section H. Diseases of the heart and circulatory system was the greatest cause of death although the number of deaths from this cause showed a fall of 36 on the previous year. The rate was 6.65 per 1,000 of population. Sixty deaths were due to coronary disease or angina, 35 male and 25 female, which is nine less than the previous year. Sixty-five deaths were due to Cancer which gives a rate of 2.18 per 1,000 population. This figure is three higher than the previous year. The number of deaths from carcinoma of the lung showed an appreciable fall, five compared with fourteen in the previous year. All deaths were in males.

There were two deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis which gives a rate of .06 per 1,000 of population. In the previous year there was one death. The following table gives the number of deaths from cancer in Wellingborough over the last seven years :

	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Cancer deaths	58	56	45	62	68	62	65
Neoplasm lung or bronchus	11	7	4	6	14	14	5
		(1 fem.)	(1 fem.)	(1 fem.)	(1 fem.)	(2 fem.)	(0 fem.)

BIRTHS.—There were 491 births registered during the year which gives a rate of 16.50 per 1,000 of population. The rate for the previous year was 16.40. The rate for England and Wales for 1958 was 16.5. Female births outnumbered males and this is only the second time this has occurred since 1946.

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS.—There were 34 illegitimate births recorded which gives a rate of 69.24 per 1,000 live births and shows an increase on the previous year when the rate was 57.97.

STILLBIRTHS.—Ten stillbirths occurred which gives a rate of 0.33 per 1,000 population and is lower than the rate for the previous year which was 0.47.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.—For the fourth year in succession no deaths occurred.

INFANT MORTALITY.—The number of infant deaths recorded during the year was 16. This gives an infant mortality rate of 32.58 per 1,000 live births and this shows a considerable increase on the rate for the previous year which was 14.49. The Infant Mortality rate for England and Wales for 1959 was 22.0. Table No. 9 in Section H gives the causes of death under one year of age. The following table shows the Infant Mortality rate for Wellingborough over a number of years :

1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	War years	1946	1947	1948	1949
65	64.3	38.8	22.6	46.6		28.16	35.99	29.64	32.89
1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
35.62	29.05	23.04	17.5	23.47	12.43	21.22	19.48	14.49	32.58

From these rates it will be seen that 1959 was the highest since 1950 which is rather unfortunate as the rate previously had shown a steady decline.

NEONATAL MORTALITY.—This is a sub-division of the infant mortality rate and is concerned with deaths occurring within 28 days of independent existence. Nine out of the sixteen infant deaths occurred within this period and so the rate is 18.32 per 1,000 live births. The rate for the previous year was 8.28.

The Registrar General in his returns for 1959 gives a further sub-division of the infant mortality rate and that is infant deaths within the first week of life. Nine infant deaths occurred within this period and so the rate is the same as the neonatal rate of 18.32.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

LABORATORY SERVICE.—The Public Health Laboratory at Northampton and the laboratory attached to Kettering General Hospital serve the area. The Kettering laboratory has branches at the Park Hospital, Wellingborough, and the Rushden Memorial Hospital, The Hayway, Rushden. Bacteriological work associated with the control of infectious diseases is carried out at these laboratories. The Northampton laboratory carries out the examination of milk samples, food and ice cream and also washed bottle and churn rinses.

DIPHTHERIA ANTITOXIN.—Antitoxin used to be kept at these offices but under the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Regional Hospital Board is now responsible for the supply of antitoxin which can be obtained from Northampton General Hospital.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.—The County Council provides this service and the local headquarters is at Church Street, Wellingborough. The area is well covered.

NURSING IN THE HOME AND HOME HELPS.—This service is supplied by the County Council and health visitors and district nurses are stationed in the area. Home helps are supplied on request in suitable cases. With the aged, the home help service is of great value in the prevention of a breakdown and often is the means by which they can remain in their own homes where otherwise they would have to be removed to institutions.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION AND OUT-PATIENT CLINICS.—The Oxford Regional Hospital Board are the responsible authority and the following facilities are available :

General Hospitals—Northampton and Kettering.

Gynaecological and Children—Wellingborough Hospital.

Acute Medical Cases, Skins and Children—Highfield Hospital, Wellingborough.

Chronic Sick, the Aged and Persons in Need of Care and Attention—Park Hospital, Wellingborough, St. Mary's Hospital, Kettering.

Maternity—Park Hospital, Wellingborough.

Tuberculosis—Rushden House Sanatorium.

Out-patient facilities are available at the two General Hospitals and also at the Rushden Memorial Hospital, The Hayway, Rushden.

Psychiatric Out-patient every Thursday afternoon, Rock Street Clinic, 2-15 to 5-15 p.m.

Infectious Diseases—Harborough Road, Hospital, Northampton.

Orthopaedic—The Manfield Orthopaedic Hospital, Northampton.

Out-patient—Orthopaedic Rock Street Clinic, Wednesday afternoons.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES AND CLINICS.—The County Council hold the following sessions at the Oxford Street Clinic :

Infant Welfare—Every Tuesday afternoon, 2nd and 4th Monday, 2 p.m.

Ante-natal—Every Monday, 1-30 p.m.

Post-natal—Every Thursday, 9-30 a.m.

Child Guidance—Alternate Tuesdays, 12-30 p.m.

Eye Clinic—Thursdays.

St. Andrew's Hall, Croyland Estate,

Infant Welfare Centre, 2nd and 4th Wednesday, 2 p.m.

Finedon Infant Welfare Centre, Co-operative Hall, first Thursday of month.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.—Under Section 47 of this Act the Council is responsible for the removal to suitable premises of persons in need of Care and Attention. It was found necessary to remove two persons under this Act during the year. In dealing with old persons who, due to age or infirmity, are incapable of looking after themselves, my procedure is first to try by means of relatives or the home help service to improve conditions in their home and see that they are getting adequate food. Failing this I try to persuade them to enter the Park Hospital, or similar accommodation, voluntarily. If I am unsuccessful then I have to resort to this Act. To give some idea of conditions found under which some of these old people are living I can do no better than state the last two cases dealt with. This was an old couple occupying one ground floor room. As this room faced on to the public highway the blind was kept continually down so that people could not see in. The room was lit by a candle or, if the money was available, one gas light. A quarter of the room space was occupied by a double bed, bedding of which was filthy. Old boxes were used for sitting on and in one corner was an accumulation of rags. Cooking was carried out on an open fire in this room. When visited the old man was confined to bed with a chronic illness and the woman had a recent fracture of her left humerus. The gas had been turned on and not lit and the room was full of gas. The window was shut and incapable of being opened. Both persons were removed to hospital that same day.

OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE.—Darby and Joan Clubs are held at Northampton Road Hall, Swanspool and Eastfield Park. A chiropody service is run in connection with these clubs, organisation of which is carried out by the W.V.S. The Health Committee of the County Council meeting on the 29th March, 1960, approved arrangements under which grants will be paid to the voluntary committees providing a chiropody service. Under these arrangements which will operate from the 1st June, 1960, the Committee will receive a grant of 75% of their total net expenditure subject to the following conditions :

- (1) That the service is made available to all old age pensioners in the neighbourhood.
- (2) That a minimum charge of 2/6d. per treatment be recovered in respect of each patient.
- (3) That if the chiropodist now employed does not hold approved qualifications he be allowed to continue but in the event of his resignation the Health Committee be notified so that, if possible, a qualified chiropodist can be appointed.
- (4) That payments made to the chiropodist by voluntary committees do not exceed those laid down by the Whitley Council.
- (5) That domiciliary treatment be restricted to patients who are unfit to leave their homes.
- (6) That the voluntary committee satisfy themselves that the chiropodist engaged is fully insured against all claims for negligence.
- (7) That the voluntary committee request the chiropodist employed not to treat any patient suffering from Diabetes without the approval of the family doctor.

Ward committees fulfil a very useful purpose in that members visit old people in their homes. It is only by such visits that unsatisfactory living conditions can be brought to the notice of the appropriate authority and help given where required. The County Council Holiday Scheme for Old Persons is much appreciated.

Finedon Area.—The Old Folks' Welfare Committee continues to carry out its excellent work in the area. A visiting team covers the area and cases requiring help are reported to the committee.

The Darby and Joan Club meet weekly at the Town Hall. The W.V.S. organise the chiropody service and weekly sessions are held. The house-bound receive treatment in their own homes. Annual holidays are arranged locally and a different seaside resort is chosen each year. The holiday lasts two weeks.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

WATER SUPPLY.—The Urban District of Wellingborough receives its water supply from the Mid-Northamptonshire Water Board. The source of supply of this water board is Pitsford Reservoir. This reservoir is situated about five miles north of Northampton in a valley on a tributary of the Brampton branch of the River Nene. The catchment area is about 19 square miles. The reservoir was formed by the construction of an earthen embankment across the valley. The reservoir can hold about 4,000 million gallons. Treatment of water consists of softening, filtration and then chlorination.

WATER SAMPLES.—The following samples were taken by this department in the Wellingborough area :

<i>Total</i>	<i>Very Satisfactory</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Suspicious</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
38	38	Nil	Nil	Nil

Samples are also taken by the Board in the area. Two samples of well water taken in the area were very unsatisfactory and persons concerned were informed of the results.

RAINFALL.—The rainfall recorded at Swanspool Gardens for the year was 20.06 inches. The following table gives the rainfall for the past eight years :

<i>1952</i>	<i>1953</i>	<i>1954</i>	<i>1955</i>	<i>1956</i>	<i>1957</i>	<i>1958</i>	<i>1959</i>
25.8	18.77	29.06	19.09	24.97	25.59	30.58	20.06

PIPED WATER SUPPLY.—The number of houses with a piped water supply is approximately 9,662. Approximately 90 houses are dependent on standpipes and 33 in outlying districts are not connected to the town's main water supply.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL, DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE.—*Wellingborough*—The public sewers are largely constructed on the combined system, carrying both rainwater and crude sewage. Some of the sewers are on a partially separate system carrying mainly sewage with only a small proportion of rainwater while still others are on a completely separate system, one for crude sewage only and the other surface water.

There are storm overflows on some of the sewers but these only come into operation after heavy rainstorms and little nuisance is caused as the brook into which they are discharged with the extra rainwater soon clears itself. The sewage from the town is pumped from two main pumping stations to the sewage farm at Irthlingborough Grange. At the main pumping station at Irthlingborough Road there are storm tanks and the settled storm waters are discharged onto land set aside for this purpose where irrigation takes place before the waters pass into the River Nene. Sewage is pumped to tanks situated on the highest part of the sewage farm and then it is gravitated from these tanks to whichever part of the farm is being used. Land irrigation is the method of treatment adopted, the effluent being finally collected in agricultural drains and led to an outlet and on to the river.

The final effluent has always been of a satisfactory nature and the suspended solids and B.O.D. figure well within the standards recommended by the Royal Commission.

The quantity of sewage pumped by the two stations during the year was as follows :

	<i>Total Sewage Pumped Gallons</i>	<i>Sewage pumped average per week Gallons</i>
Irthlingborough Road Pumping Station	214,818,000	4,131,000
Cattle Market Pumping Station ..	205,920,000	3,960,000
	<hr/> 420,738,000	<hr/> 8,091,000

In addition there is a considerable quantity of storm water pumped at the Cattle Market which is not metered.

Finedon—The situation is not so satisfactory but a scheme is being drawn up by the Consultant Engineers to bring the sewage from the Finedon Works to Wellingborough and for it to be treated with the Wellingborough sewage. The method of treatment at Finedon at present is as follows : The crude sewage is first screened, it then passes into settlement tanks. Sludge from these tanks is passed to four sludge drying beds. Effluent from tanks is run on to land where broad irrigation takes place. A chemical analysis of final effluent taken on the 27th January, 1959, gave the following results :

	<i>Parts per million</i>
Total solids dried at 105°C.	—
Suspended solids dried at 105°C.	40
Suspended solids ashed at 600°C.	5
Chlorides as Chlorine	79
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	339
Free and Saline Ammonia as Nitrogen	9.5
Albuminoid Ammonia as Nitrogen	2.8
Nitrites as Nitrogen	—
Nitrates as Nitrogen	18.6
Permanganate Value (4 hours)	24.4
Biochemical Oxygen Demand in 5 days at 20°C. ..	36

Weather conditions cold and dry.

Remarks.—This effluent was causing the brook to appear grossly polluted. The suspended solids and B.O.D. figure are in excess of the Royal Commission standards.

DISINFECTION.—28 premises were disinfected during the year following cases of infectious diseases. On request 28 articles of clothing, bedding, etc., were destroyed after cases or deaths from certain diseases.

SWIMMING BATHS.—As no facilities exist in the Urban District people from the area have to visit Wilby, Overstone or Rushden where there are bathing pools. Routine samples of water from these swimming baths were taken for bacteriological examination during the season and in most instances were satisfactory.

It is hoped that the Council will press on with the scheme for a swimming pool for the district. It is noted that the need for such facilities is appreciated by the schools and plans for swimming baths are being proceeded with in some instances. On request samples of water from the swimming pool at the Public School were taken and the results of the three samples taken were one very satisfactory and two satisfactory. Two samples of water from the paddling pool at the Zoo Park were very unsatisfactory with evidence of faecal pollution. A third sample taken gave a very satisfactory result.

Two samples of water taken from the paddling pool at the Embankment gave the following results :

One unsatisfactory, presumptive B. Coli count 17, but no faecal coli. The second sample was satisfactory.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS, PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, S.264.—Five licences were granted during the year for caravans. Some of these are occupied by persons in show business. No complaints were received about the use of caravans during the year.

PUBLIC CLEANSING, REFUSE COLLECTION & DISPOSAL.—A weekly collection of domestic refuse is carried out. Disposal is by controlled tipping.

Tips : Gipsy Lane, Irchester,

Northampton Road—Croyland Road, Wellingborough.

This tip was closed from the end of the Financial Year (31.3.60).

		<i>Domestic Refuse</i>	<i>Trade Refuse</i>
Tonnage disposed of	.. ..	8,838	796
No. of load	.. ..	4,584	1,062

In addition an estimated 3,500 tons was disposed of for the Wellingborough Rural District Council.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION AND SMOKE ABATEMENT.—In last year's annual report I stressed the importance to health of a clean atmosphere and the fact that the man in the street is becoming more conscious of the air he breathes. This is borne out by the number of complaints received annually by the Health Department concerning atmospheric pollution. In many instances suitable action can be taken to abate the nuisance but unfortunately they frequently re-occur. The chief causes of atmospheric pollution is the factory chimney, the domestic chimney and road traffic. The factory chimney whether it is black smoke or particles of dust or grit can be tackled but little or no change occurs over the years with regard to the domestic chimney. This is shown by the estimation of sulphur in the atmosphere and for comparison this year I have shown the results of the estimation of sulphur by the Lead Peroxide method for 1958 and 1959. In fact when one compares the figures for the two years it will be seen there is a slight upward trend. This possibly is due to the fact that with prosperity people have more fuel to burn and also with wives going out to work often fires are banked up throughout a day. The two instruments are sited at Broad Green and St. Andrew's Crescent and the records for the two years are as follows :

		Weight of SO ₃ collected mg/100 sq. cms./day			
		<i>Broad Green</i>		<i>St. Andrew's Crescent</i>	
		1958	1959	1958	1959
January	..	1.54	2.09	1.79	2.34
February	..	1.30	1.68	1.31	1.94
March	..	1.13	1.26	1.28	1.26
April	..	0.68	0.99	0.80	0.92
May	..	0.58	0.68	0.63	0.81
June	..	0.72	0.59	0.76	0.50
July	..	0.50	0.54	0.55	0.56
August	..	0.50	0.63	0.63	0.57
September	..	0.72	0.53	0.95	0.61
October	..	1.10	1.10	1.41	1.12
November	..	1.24	1.39	1.61	1.88
December	..	1.62	1.39	1.91	1.88

The four deposit gauges situated at Hillside Road, Cooling Tower, Highfield Hospital and Council Depot were in operation during the year. The average monthly deposit given in tons per sq. mile collected at these four sites over the last seven years is as follows :

	<i>Hillside Road</i>	<i>Cooling Tower</i>	<i>Highfield Hospital</i>	<i>Council Depot</i>
1959	15.42	15.26	11.25	10.14
1958	16.00	20.43	9.37	9.98
1957	17.49	26.77	8.47	10.57
1956	19.69	22.44	11.49	10.74
1955	45.68	32.88	14.29	14.29
1954	56.96	73.13	14.26	11.70
1953	54.29	87.17	14.93	12.66

An average of these figures over the last seven years is as follows :

1959	..	13.01
1958	..	13.95
1957	..	15.82
1956	..	16.09
1955	..	26.78
1954	..	39.01
1953	..	42.26

It is interesting to note that the figures for Hillside Road and the Cooling Tower have shown a fall but that the Highfield Hospital and Council Depot figures show a slight increase. This may mean that the cyclones at the Iron works are dealing with the heavier particles but that the finer particles are getting out into the atmosphere and being deposited over a larger area.

The problem caused by road traffic continues. Daily one sees black fumes from diesel lorries poured out on to our streets. When one considers that this is preventable and that it is caused by negligence on the part of those responsible for the maintenance of the vehicle it almost amounts to criminal negligence. It would appear that the only way to bring home to those persons causing such grievous pollution of the atmosphere in our streets is by legal action and heavy penalties.

SECTION D.

HOUSING

The progress already achieved in the Urban District in house construction both by the Council and privately is as follows :

Post-War Housing Progress—Statistical Summary.

			<i>Council Development</i>	<i>Private Development</i>	<i>Totals</i>
Contracts	Prior 1959	..	1,681	1,029	2,710
Let	During 1959	..	26	<i>Approved</i> 121	147
	Total	.. ..	1,707	1,150	2,857
Houses	Prior 1959	..	1,592	807	2,399
Completed	During 1959	..	60	129	189
	Total	.. ..	1,652	936	2,588
Under Construction	..	..	55	63	118

It is pleasing to report that many suitable clearance sites in the area have been re-developed thus clearing up unsightly areas that can give rise to nuisances.

The Bungalow scheme with Warden's House and recreation room for old folks at Walker's Way, Finedon, was completed and officially opened during the year. The local authority and the County Council Welfare department co-operated in this scheme which is a considerable step forward in the care of our old folk. They are visited frequently by the Warden and in the case of sudden illness can contact by means of a bell in the Warden's house. A very comfortable recreation room is provided at the Warden's house where they are entertained from time to time by organisations in Finedon. There is also accommodation provided for persons visiting a relative in times of illness. Many other authorities have visited Walker's Way during the year to study the set-up and have been suitably impressed. These bungalows and Warden's house are situated in a convenient position and on a former clearance site.

CLEARANCE OF UNFIT PROPERTIES.—Official representations were made to the Council during the year concerning properties in the following areas :

Cannon Street (No. 2) Clearance Order	.. ..	8 houses
Two objections were received and an Inquiry was held. Order was confirmed by the Ministry without modification. Representations were made in 1958 and Order confirmed in 1959.		
Waterloo Buildings (No. 2) Clearance Area	.. ..	5 houses
(Negotiations to purchase).		

West Villa Cottages Clearance Areas	.. ..	16 houses
Inquiry held by Ministry—awaiting results.		
Knight Street (No. 2) Clearance Area	.. ..	11 houses
(Negotiations to purchase by Council).		
Brook Street East Yard Clearance Area	.. ..	3 houses
Results of Inquiry—all three unfit—two confirmed, third owner to put forward proposals to make fit.		
Buckwell End (No. 3) Clearane Area	.. ..	5 houses
(Inquiry held by Ministry—awaiting results).		
South Row (Wood Street) Clearance Area	.. ..	4 houses
Order confirmed without modification by the Ministry.		

Under Sections 16–18 of the Housing Act the following number of houses were dealt with during the year :

Wellingborough	.. ..	4
Finedon	.. ..	1

Sixty-four houses were demolished during the year, 22 at Finedon and 42 at Wellingborough.

The Council has pursued its Five-Year Slum Clearance Programme with vigour and has now reached the last phase of this programme. Approximately 156 houses were included in the original survey, but it was then stated that following the survey of properties in the Urban District that an estimate of 350 houses was considered to be the total problem. It was thought at that stage with the Council's commitments considerably more than five years would be required to deal with this number. 156 unfit properties were then listed on Schedule B and considered as suitable for action as Clearance areas during the next five years and this has been carried out. In the near future it will be necessary to consider a further programme and I suggest that it should be carried out on similar lines to the five-year programme.

The Housing factor for the Urban District is 3.2 persons per house. Applicants for Council houses at Wellingborough and Finedon at the end of the year was as follows :

<i>Applicants'</i>		<i>31st December, 1959</i>	<i>Selected but</i>
<i>Present accommodation</i>		<i>Awaiting consideration</i>	<i>not housed</i>
Class 2 houses	.. ..	27	8
Class 3 houses	.. ..	2	1
Class 4 houses	.. ..	1	1
Houses outside area	.. ..	9	9
Rooms	.. ..	121	67
Clearance Areas	.. ..	—	13
Various A.P.B.'s	.. ..	85	—
		—	—
<i>Totals</i>	.. ..	245	99
		—	—

The number of applications for Council houses shows an increase of 13 on the figure for the end of 1958.

The situation at the end of the year at Finedon was as follows :

<i>Applicants'</i> <i>Present accommodation</i>		<i>31st December, 1959</i> <i>Awaiting consideration</i>	<i>Selected but</i> <i>not housed</i>
Class 2 houses .. ..	..	5	1
Class 3 houses .. ..	..	1	1
Class 4 houses .. ..	..	—	—
Houses outside area ..	..	—	2
Rooms .. ..	..	9	15
Clearance Areas .. ..	..	—	1
Various A.P.B.'s .. ..	..	21	—
		—	—
<i>Totals</i> .. ..	..	36	20
		—	—

These figures show a fall of 18 on the number of applicants on the books at the end of the previous year.

During the course of the year a number of reports were submitted to the Housing Manager to bring to the notice of the Housing Committee where health factor was involved. I am grateful to this Committee for the sympathetic hearing given to all such cases.

HOUSING ACCOMMODATION FOR IMMIGRANTS.—This continues to be a problem and the situation with regard to the prevention of overcrowding has to be continually kept under control. The practice of a number of adults first occupying the house, then followed by their families, a constant movement in and out of the house.

Cooking facilities and sanitary arrangements are often quite inadequate. The situation requires careful consideration in the future.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK.—The supervision of milk production comes under the Ministry and their Inspectors take samples in the area. Local authorities in whose areas pasteurisation plants are situated, as the Licensing authority, sample milk before and after pasteurisation.

SAMPLES.—80 milk samples were taken during the year and the results were as follows :

<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>Passed</i>	<i>Failed</i>
80	66	14

A number of the tests were invalid due to high overnight temperatures. Milk samples are subjected to the following tests :

- (1) The phosphatase test for determining the efficiency of pasteurisation.
- (2) The methylene blue reaction test for measuring keeping qualities.

The latter is influenced to some extent by the bacteriological cleanliness of milk and consequently the condition of production.

WASHED MILK BOTTLE RINSES.—111 rinses from washed bottles were taken for bacteriological examination and the results were as follows :

<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Fairly Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
111	Nil	Nil

These results are very satisfactory.

CHURN RINSES.—54 rinses from churns were taken and gave the following results :

<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Fairly Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
54	48	2	4

ICE CREAM.—There are 121 premises registered for the sale of ice cream in the area. Ten samples were taken during the year and the results were as follows :

<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>Grade 1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
10	7	2	—	1

In view of the large number of premises registered for the sale of ice cream and one sample in ten was unsatisfactory I would once again recommend that the number of samples taken should be considerably increased. Four ice lollies were examined and all gave satisfactory results.

MEAT INSPECTION.—A one hundred per cent. inspection of all carcasses slaughtered for human consumption is carried out and a summary of the number of animals inspected during the year is as follows :

<i>Cattle</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Calves</i>
542	18,468	3,431	3

These figures show a considerable increase on the previous year when they were :

350	16,197	2,709	4
-----	--------	-------	---

It is interesting to note that even with this increase there was a noticeable decrease in the total weight of meat and offal condemned as unfit for human consumption. The figures for 1959 were as follows and I have compared them with the previous year :

1959	—	2 tons	19 cwts.	3 qrs.	15 lbs.
1958	—	3 tons	16 cwts.	1 qr.	27 lbs.

The situation with regard to the slaughterhouses in the area remains the same as reported in last year's annual report.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

SMALLPOX.—No cases occurred.

VACCINATION FIGURES.—The following vaccinations were carried out during 1959 :

	<i>Under 1 yr.</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2-4</i>	<i>5-14</i>	<i>15 yrs. or over</i>	<i>Total</i>
Primary	255	4	13	15	34	321
Re-vaccination	—	—	4	11	47	62
						383

The figures for 1958 were :

	<i>Under 1 yr.</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2-4</i>	<i>5-14</i>	<i>15 yrs. or over</i>	<i>Total</i>
Primary	259	11	28	29	69	396
Re-vaccination	—	—	4	16	72	92
						488

The total figures for the year show a fall of 105 on the previous year. Primary vaccination in infancy, however, were only four down on 1958. Still, when one considers that there were 491 live births there is considerable room for improvement. It is to be hoped that parents are not neglecting this safeguard against such a serious disease as Smallpox. It is appreciated that the first year of an infant's life now is a series of inoculations but all are important and parents should not leave out one form of protection because other inoculations are more in the public eye at the moment.

SCARLET FEVER.—32 cases were notified compared with 24 in the previous year. Two cases were removed to hospital. Twenty-eight cases were amongst children of school age and the majority of cases were in the last quarter of the year. The present practice of allowing home contacts of cases of Scarlet Fever to attend school, in my opinion, is most undesirable. If a focus of infection is set up in a school at present cases may keep occurring anything up to 12 to 18 months. I have discussed this matter with the Ministry and hope when they revise their Memorandum on the Closure of Schools and Exclusion from School on account of infectious illness that they will change their present policy and exclude home contacts of cases of scarlet fever.

DIPHTHERIA.—It is now eight years since a case occurred in the district.

DIPHTHERIA PROPHYLAXIS.—The following table shows the number of children in the different age groups who have completed a full course of inoculations against Diphtheria on 31st December, 1959 :

Age at 31.12.59 <i>i.e.</i> born in year	<i>Under</i>							<i>Total Under 15</i>
	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5 to 9</i>	<i>10 to 14</i>	
	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1950-1954	1945-1949	
Number Immunised	95	292	297	296	280	1,612	1,662	4,534

An immunisation clinic is held at Oxford Street Clinic on the second Saturday of the month at 9-30 a.m. Immunisations are also carried out at the Welfare Centre, St. Andrew's Hall, on the Croyland Estate. The following number of immunisations were carried out during the year :

	<i>Under 1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5-9</i>	<i>10-14</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Booster</i>
Diphtheria									
Immunisation only	14	1	4	2	3	5	—	29	94
Combined									
Diphtheria/Pertussis	274	26	20	5	3	17	2	347	95
Total Diphtheria									
Immunisation	288	27	24	7	6	22	2	376	189
Whooping Cough only	11	5	4	—	—	1	—	21	13

WHOOPING COUGH.—29 cases of Whooping Cough were notified compared with 125 in the previous year. Six cases were removed to hospital. With the introduction of the use of Triple Antigen (Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis combined) it is recommended to start immunisations at 3 months and subsequently a single booster dose is given at 2 years and 5 years. This, in my opinion, should help to prevent attenuated attacks in later childhood when the immunity is beginning to wear off.

MEASLES.—351 cases were notified compared with 31 in the previous year. One infant death occurred due to broncho-pneumonia a complication arising from measles. The majority of cases occurred in the second half of the year.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.—Seven cases were notified compared with nine in the previous year. From Table No. 6 in Section H 'it will be seen that cases were spread throughout the months of the year.

PNEUMONIA.—27 cases were notified which is five less than the previous year. 20 deaths were attributed to this cause which is six more than in 1958.

INFLUENZA.—Four deaths occurred from this disease which is two more than the previous year. 1958 was an Influenza year with two epidemics one in the early part of the year due to the Asian type and in the last quarter of the same year a second epidemic occurred caused by the common type of virus usual in this country. This epidemic ran into the early months of 1959. The remainder of the year, especially after the very fine summer, was fortunately free from this complaint.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER.—No cases.

ERYSIPELAS.—Four cases were notified compared with three in the previous year.

DYSENTERY.—One case was notified. There were no notifications in the previous year.

POLIOMYELITIS.—One case occurred and from the history it would appear that the infection was contracted outside the country. This was the first case for two years.

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS.—The vaccination scheme against poliomyelitis was commenced in 1956 and since then the age range of persons vaccinated has been increased yearly. Large numbers have been vaccinated against this infectious disease and the age range is now up to 40 years. Parents would be well advised to have their children inoculated and adults should remember that poliomyelitis cripples adults too. It is quite true to say that crutches will not support your family. The vaccination figures for the year were as follows :

<i>Under 1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5-9</i>	<i>10-14</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Third Injs.</i>	<i>15 & Over</i>	<i>Third Injs.</i>
39	260	130	68	42	348	318	1,205	1,802	1,748	1,002

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.—No cases were notified.

EPIDEMIC DIARRHŒA AND VOMITING (Winter Vomiting Virus).—In the last quarter of the year there was a widespread epidemic of diarrhœa and vomiting which was to continue into the early months of this present year. Very large numbers of persons were affected and the virus seemed to confer very little immunity from an attack and many recurrent cases and even third attacks were not uncommon. Symptoms varied considerably from case to case, some had nausea followed by vomiting and then diarrhœa. Others had no vomiting but profuse diarrhœa. Diarrhoea appeared to be more common than vomiting. Abdominal discomfort accompanied an attack and some had severe abdominal pains. Temperature was not always raised but if so was in the region of 101°. Many cases were mild and patients continued to work. These cases helped with the spread of the infection and the virus, in my opinion, most probably was spread by the respiratory tract which also helped in the spread. The epidemic was most probably due to the Winter Vomiting Virus.

WEIL'S DISEASE.—In December Harborough Road, Hospital, Northampton, informed me that they had admitted a case of suspected Weil's disease from Wellingborough. Immediate investigations were carried out in the vicinity of the house from which the case was admitted and instructions given to the Rodent Operator to try and provide some rats from the area. This was done and specimens sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Northampton. Following tests carried out on one of the rats sent for examination the following report was received :

Guinea pig died 31.12.59.
Signs of Jaundice present.
Leptospira icterohæmorrhagiae present.

This confirmed my fears that the rat population in the vicinity of the particular house was infected. A full-scale campaign was waged against the rats in this area with a view to complete extermination. This campaign was successful and subsequently rats caught in the area were examined and found to be free. These obviously were rats that had moved into the area following the extermination of the previous residents.

This was a very satisfactory piece of Public Health work brought about by the co-operation of the hospital doctors in prompt notification followed by the necessary action of the Health Department.

TUBERCULOSIS.—23 cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year compared with 26 cases in the previous year. These cases were as follows :

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	12	7
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	2

Two deaths occurred from pulmonary Tuberculosis. There were two deaths in the previous year but one was a non-pulmonary Tuberculosis death. 28 cases were admitted to the Rushden House Sanatorium and 27 discharged during the year.

The number of cases on the Tuberculosis register at the end of the year was as follows :

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Pulmonary	95	66	161
Non-Pulmonary	23	19	42
			—
			203
			—

The numbers of new cases of Tuberculosis notified during the last twelve years were :

<i>1948</i>	<i>1949</i>	<i>1950</i>	<i>1951</i>	<i>1952</i>	<i>1953</i>	<i>1954</i>	<i>1955</i>
11	19	17	23	11	24	16	17
		<i>1956</i>	<i>1957</i>	<i>1958</i>	<i>1959</i>		
		15	15	26	23		

The following table gives a comparison between the mortality figure for Wellingborough and the Administrative County dating back to 1948 :

<i>Year</i>	<i>Tuberculosis—All forms</i>			<i>Rate per 1,000 population</i>	
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Wellingboro'</i>	<i>County</i>
1948	4	6	10	.35	.42
1949	5	3	8	.28	.43
1950	7	—	7	.24	.30
1951	7	4	11	.38	.26
1952	3	3	6	.21	.25
1953	5	2	7	.24	.18
1954	2	2	4	.13	.12
1955	2	3	5	.17	.09
1956	3	—	3	.14	.09
1957	2	—	2	.06	.06
1958	—	2	2	.06	.08
1959	1	1	2	.06	*

* *Not available.*

The area is fortunate in having a very active After-Care Committee which continued to carry out its excellent work in the area.

The Mass Radiography Unit visited the town between 25th November and 18th December, 1958, and carried out its fifth survey of the area. Eleven sites were visited. The response by firms was 75%. A brief summary of the results of this survey is as follows :

			<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
No. of miniature films taken	..	..	4,049	3,098	7,147
No. recalled for large films	..	..	125	69	194
No. recalled for Clinical examination	..		30	16	46
No. referred to Chest Clinic	..	..	14	8	22

Summary of significant cases of pulmonary tuberculosis found :

		<i>No. examined</i>	<i>Active P.T.</i>	<i>Rate per Thousand</i>	<i>Inactive P.T.</i>	<i>Rate per Thousand</i>
Boot and Shoe firms	..	1,206	—	—	—	—
Other firms	..	4,017	7	1.74	3	.75
General Public	..	1,924	3	1.56	2	1.04
<i>Total</i>	..	7,147	10	1.40	5	.70

Non-Tuberculosis conditions :

Bronchial carcinoma	..	1
Simple tumour	..	1
Bronchiectasis	..	1
Pneumonitis	..	1

A G.P. Referral service was established during the year, the Unit visiting the town once a month to X-ray such cases.

INTERNATIONAL HELP FOR CHILDREN.—Again I had the pleasure of assisting the Wellingborough Committee in carrying out the medical examination of children coming to Wellingborough for their annual holiday. These children are placed with families and it is in the interest of all concerned that they should be examined before entering into the homes of the people in the area. It is, of course, of equal importance that these homes are suitable from a health point of view and as these names and addresses are supplied to me they also can be checked.

SECTION G.

THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

There are 211 factories on the register for the Wellingborough area. Sixteen visits were made by the Public Health Inspectors. No written notices were served.

A number of visits was made by the Medical Officer during the year to factories in the area.

Table No. 10 in Section H gives further details about factories. On the August list there were 399 outworkers.

No complaints were received from factories where mechanical power is not used.

No action was necessary in respect of homework (Sections 110 and 111).

SECTION H.

STATISTICAL TABLES, 1959

TABLE NO. 1.

CAUSES OF DEATH

<i>Causes of Death</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	1	2
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	1	1
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	1	2
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ..	3	5	8
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	5	—	5
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ..	—	6	6
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ..	—	5	5
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	21	20	41
15. Leukæmia, aleukæmia	—	2	2
16. Diabetes	1	3	4
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	21	23	44
18. Coronary disease, angina	35	25	60
19. Hypertension with heart disease ..	3	1	4
20. Other heart diseases	37	43	80
21. Other circulatory diseases	8	2	10
22. Influenza	2	2	4
23. Pneumonia	8	12	20
24. Bronchitis	24	9	33
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	—	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ..	1	1	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa ..	1	1	2
28. Nephritis and neprosis	2	—	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	3	—	3
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ..	—	—	—
31. Congenial malformations	1	2	3
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	14	15	29
33. Motor vehicle accidents	1	—	1
34. All other accidents	3	5	8
35. Suicide	2	3	5
36. Homicide and operations of war ..	—	—	—
ALL CAUSES	199	188	387

DEATHS FROM SELECTED CAUSES

TABLE NO. 2

Year	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Cancer		Diseases of Heart and Blood Vessels		Bronchitis Pneumonia and other Respiratory Diseases	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
1946	2	.07	6	.21	66	2.38	149	5.37	25	.90
1947	1	.03	7	.24	53	1.88	173	6.14	24	.85
1948	1	.03	9	.31	50	1.77	166	5.87	35	1.23
1949	1	.03	7	.24	61	2.16	183	6.48	32	1.13
1950	—	—	7	.24	68	2.40	204	7.21	33	1.16
1951	1	.03	10	.35	54	1.90	133	4.69	35	1.23
1952	—	—	6	.21	53	1.87	199	7.04	28	.99
1953	1	.03	6	.21	58	2.03	229	8.02	30	1.05
1954	—	—	4	.13	56	1.95	200	6.97	34	1.18
1955	—	—	5	.17	45	1.56	193	6.70	21	.72
1956	—	—	3	.10	62	2.15	194	6.73	26	.90
1957	—	—	2	.06	68	2.33	191	6.56	30	1.03
1958	1	.03	1	.03	62	2.10	234	7.94	37	1.25
1959	—	—	2	.06	65	2.18	198	6.65	54	1.81

COMPARISON OF STILLBIRTHS, ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS AND MASCULINITY OF BIRTH

TABLE NO. 3

Year	Stillbirths per 1,000		Illegitimate births per 1,000 live births	Male births per 1,000 live female births
	Population of all ages	Total Births live and still		
1946	.54	29.29	62.37	1,004
1947	.53	12.98	65.72	1,022
1948	.46	13.63	49.40	1,000
1949	.21	22.93	41.66	1,111
1950	.42	12.34	40.38	1,136
1951	.56	25.04	60.53	1,096
1952	.21	22.93	34.56	1,333
1953	.17	37.29	35.00	1,285
1954	.34	27.71	39.90	1,206
1955	.38	26.63	44.77	1,138
1956	.24	16.00	40.09	972
1957	.24	14.92	45.45	1,100
1958	.47	16.40	57.97	1,215
1959	.33	19.96	69.24	903

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1959 AND PREVIOUS YEARS

TABLE No. 4

Year	Estimated Population	Births		Deaths			
				Under 1 year		All ages	
		No.	Rate per 1,000	No.	Rate per 1,000	No.	Rate per 1,000
1946	27,740	497	17.91	14	28.16	345	12.43
1947	28,170	639	22.68	23	35.99	346	12.28
1948	28,240	506	17.91	15	29.64	335	11.86
1949	28,200	456	16.20	15	32.89	366	12.97
1950	28,290	421	14.88	15	35.62	381	13.46
1951	28,380	413	14.55	12	29.05	361	12.72
1952	28,250	434	15.36	10	23.04	334	11.82
1953	28,520	400	14.02	7	17.5	388	13.60
1954	28,670	426	14.85	10	23.47	349	12.10
1955	28,780	402	13.96	5	12.43	329	11.43
1956	28,810	424	14.71	9	21.22	346	12.00
1957	29,110	462	15.87	9	19.48	362	12.43
1958	29,440	483	16.40	7	14.49	416	14.13
1959	29,740	491	16.50	16	32.58	387	13.01

AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis) 1959.

TABLE No. 5.

Disease	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5	-10	-15	-20	-35	-45	-65	65+	All Ages	Removed to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever ..	1	—	1	2	5	19	4	—	—	—	—	—	32	2	—
Pneumonia ..	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	2	2	4	7	8	27	—	20
Measles	7	27	38	45	56	176	3	—	4	—	—	—	351	—	1
Whooping Cough	3	4	3	5	2	6	5	1	—	—	—	—	29	6	—
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	—	4	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	4	—	—	—	7	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	11	31	42	47	63	204	14	6	12	6	8	8	452	9	21

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

(Other than Tuberculosis) 1959.

TABLE NO. 6.

<i>Disease</i>	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever	—	5	—	3	—	—	3	—	1	2	10	8	32
Pneumonia	1	5	3	4	—	1	2	2	2	2	2	3	27
Measles	1	13	—	5	5	15	86	33	17	19	25	132	351
Whooping Cough	4	11	—	2	1	—	3	2	3	1	2	—	29
Erysipelas	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	4
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	1	—	2	—	7
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	7	34	4	15	6	17	94	39	24	25	43	144	452

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH
AGE AND SEX INCIDENCE

TABLE No. 7.

<i>Age Periods</i>	<i>Measles</i>		<i>Whooping Cough</i>	
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
—6 months	—	—	—	—
—12 months	6	1	2	1
—18 months	5	9	1	3
—2 years	8	5	—	—
—2½ years	13	16	1	2
—3 years	5	4	—	—
—4 years	30	10	2	3
—5 years	36	20	1	1
—10 years	96	80	8	1
—15 years	1	2	1	1
15 years+	3	1	1	—
ALL AGES	203	148	17	12
TOTALS	351		29	

NEW CASES OF, AND DEATHS FROM, TUBERCULOSIS, 1959

TABLE NO. 8

<i>Age Periods</i>	<i>New Cases</i>				<i>Deaths</i>			
	<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non- respiratory</i>		<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non- respiratory</i>	
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Fe- male</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Fe- male</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Fe- male</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Fe- male</i>
— 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
— 5	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—25	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
—35	3	1	—	2	—	1	—	—
—45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—55	4	2	1	—	1	—	—	—
—65	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65+	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	12	7	2	2	1	1	—	—

CAUSES OF DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR

TABLE No. 9.

<i>Cause of Death</i>	<i>Age in weeks</i>					
	<i>-1</i>	<i>-2</i>	<i>-3</i>	<i>-4</i>	<i>5-52</i>	<i>Total</i>
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculous diseases ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	1	1
Convulsions	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	1	1
Enteritis and Diarrhœa ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	2	—	—	—	2	4
Premature Birth	6	—	—	—	—	6
Injury at Birth	—	—	—	—	—	—
Asphyxia and Atelectasis	1	—	—	—	1	2
Congenital Debility	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hæmolytic Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Causes	—	—	—	—	2	2
TOTALS	9	—	—	—	7	16

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937 and 1948
for the year 1959.

PART I. OF THE ACT

1.—INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written notices</i>	<i>Occupiers prosecuted</i>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	20	3	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	176	9	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ..	15	4	—	—
TOTAL	211	16	—	—

2.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	—	—	—	—	—

PART VIII. OF THE ACT—OUTWORK

<i>Nature of Work</i>	<i>Section 110</i>			<i>Section 111</i>		
	<i>No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)</i>	<i>No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council</i>	<i>No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists</i>	<i>No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises</i>	<i>Notices served</i>	<i>Prosecutions</i>
Wearing apparel—						
Making, etc.	363	—	—	—	—	—
Cleaning & Washing	—	—	—	—	—	—
Curtains & Furniture hangings	—	—	—	—	—	—
Furniture & Upholstery	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lampshades	2	—	—	—	—	—
Carding, etc., of Buttons, etc.	34	—	—	—	—	—
The making of boxes or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	399	—	—	—	—	—

WELLINGBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

CHIEF

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1959

A. J. STROUD, F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector's Department

STAFF

Chief Public Health Inspector :

A. J. STROUD, F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.*

Also Authorised Officer under the Shops,
Petroleum, Theatres & Cinematograph Acts.

Additional Public Health Inspector :

D. B. HOPKINS, M.A.P.H.I.*

Clerk and Chief Public Health Inspector's Secretary :

MISS H. TAMM

Rodent Operative and Manual Assistant :

L. RICHARDSON

2nd Manual Assistant :

VACANT

* Certified Meat and Food Inspector, The Royal Society of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1959.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Wellingborough :

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. CARTER AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting for your information and consideration my Thirteenth Annual Report for the year 1959. It is set out on similar lines to previous years, for the benefit of comparison, and gives statistical data and other information relating to the department's work in the field of environmental hygiene. No detailed reference is made to the subsidiary duties for which I am responsible.

It will be seen from the text that most activity was in regard to housing and food inspection. The concluding phases of the first five-year slum clearance programme were represented during the year. It is perhaps useful to state that since the Council resumed this work in 1953, 246 houses have been demolished and 627 persons re-housed from condemned property. There is, however, a fairly wide field ahead during the next ten years, and plans are now being formulated for a second five-year programme to commence shortly.

The introduction of the new Standard Grant Scheme under the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, is to be welcomed, as marking a further step towards an improved statutory standard for existing houses. In these enlightened days, such things as baths, hot water, internal w.c.'s, food stores and indeed electricity cannot be regarded as luxuries, but are common necessities to enable families to live full and happy lives and bring up their children in accordance with present-day conceptions. While the present Act provides a measure of compulsion so far as the making of grants are concerned, should not the obligation be bi-lateral instead of uni-lateral, on owner and local authority alike ?

With regard to meat inspection at slaughterhouses, which must be regarded as a prime duty, there was a further rise of 17% in the number of animals slaughtered compared with 1958. I am pleased to report that 100% inspection has been carried out for the sixth successive year. This, however, was only achieved with considerable difficulty and by sacrificing other work. With the continuing upward trend, it is doubtful whether, under present circumstances this standard can be maintained for another year.

Concerning atmospheric pollution, activity has so far been confined to dealing with various smoke nuisances and other specific problems, and no general approach has yet been made to the wider aspects of smoke control under the Clean Air Act. This is a subject which offers considerable scope for progress in this important branch of public health. Consideration might well be given in the near future to the formation of smoke control areas in suitable parts of the Urban District, initially, for example, in new areas of residential development, where the capital outlay would be negligible.

In April, I had the privilege of presenting a paper on 'Housing Standards' to the Health Congress of the Royal Society of Health at Harrogate. This was an honour I much appreciated in view of the Society's wide reputation and the particularly international character of this Congress.

The year's work was not, on the whole, altogether satisfying, so much unfortunately having to be left either undone or inadequately done. Apart from the matters already referred to, the department was largely concerned with keeping abreast as far as possible with day to day matters arising from an increase in complaints and other enquiries, and a greater amount of administrative work. In consequence, the overall amount of inspection work, and in particular the number of systematic inspections of special classes of premises, especially factories, shops and food premises generally, which is nonetheless a statutory duty, was again necessarily limited, and far below what is considered proper for an Urban District of the population and character of Wellingborough. This has been a matter of regret and concern for some years, and I hope it will soon be possible to remedy this deficiency.

My thanks are due to Mr. Hopkins, my additional Health Inspector, for his valued assistance throughout the year, and to all chief officers and their staffs for their advice and co-operation.

In conclusion I again record my appreciation of the continued consideration and support given me by the Chairman and Members of the Health and General Purposes Committee during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

ALEC J. STROUD, F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector.

Council Offices,
Swanspool,
Wellingborough.

August, 1960.

TABLE A.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Complaints received	388
Informal Notices served	31
Statutory Notices served	31
Written Communications received	1,467
Written Communications despatched	1,532

TABLE B.

SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

(a) *General Public Health Work :*

Water Supply	8
Drainage and Sewerage	208
Closet Accommodation	7
Refuse—Storage, collection and disposal	1
Common yards and passages	7
Moveable Dwellings	4
Theatres and Places of Entertainment	—
Rivers and water courses—pollution of	9
Offensive Trades	—
Atmospheric Pollution and Smoke Abatement	28
Infectious Disease, Disinfection, etc.	45
Keeping of Animals	4
Offensive Accumulations	12
Vermin and Pest Control—Investigations	43
Schools	—
Swimming Pools and Bathing Places	11

(b) *Housing :*

Inspection of Dwelling Houses :

(a) Public Health, Housing and Rent Acts	277
(b) Improvement Grants	145

(c) *Shops Act, 1950 :*

Sanitary Conditions	3
-----------------------------	---

(d) *Factories Act, 1937 :*

Inspection of Factories, Workplaces and Outworkers'

premises	27
------------------	----

(e) *Food Inspection and Control :*

Meat Inspection at Slaughterhouses	1,149
Other Food Inspection	77

Hygiene of Food Premises.

Food Shops and Warehouses	41
Market Stalls and Street Food Vendors	26
Food Manufacturing Premises	12
Catering Establishments and Licensed premises	5
Ice Cream Premises	5
Dairies, Milk Shops and Milk Distribution	9
Food Handling and Distribution	8

Sampling.

Milk, Milk Containers, Ice Cream and Other Foods	70
--	----

(f) *Other Visits :*

Pet Animals Act	—
Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act	1
Rodent Infestation Control (including visits by rodent operative)	1,299
Shops Act—Closing Hours, Sunday Trading, Employment of Young Persons, etc.	2
Nuisances—Noise	19
Nuisances—Unclassified	24
Petroleum Acts	46
Theatres and Cinematograph Acts	7
Outside Interviews	140
Lectures, talks, etc., given	8
Unsuccessful Visits	99
(g) <i>Miscellaneous Visits</i>	34
TOTAL VISITS AND INSPECTIONS	3,920

TABLE C.

IMPROVEMENTS MADE AND DEFECTS REMEDIED
FOLLOWING SERVICE OF NOTICE

General :

Roofs repaired or renewed	9
Chimney stacks repaired or rebuilt	4
Walls (External) repaired or rebuilt	1
Walls (External) repointed, rendered, etc.	7
E.G's and R.W.P.'s cleansed, repaired or renewed	4
Yards paved or repaired	1
Walls (Internal) repaired	8
Ceilings repaired or renewed	1
Floors repaired or renewed	1
Stairs repaired	1
Windows, etc., repaired or renewed	8
Firegrates and stoves repaired or renewed	1
Sinks provided or renewed	2
Dampness remedied	—
Boundary Walls repaired or rebuilt	2

Drainage :

Drains constructed or re-constructed	2
Drains repaired	4
Gullies provided or renewed	—
Obstructed drains cleared	1
Inspection chambers provided or repaired	5
Drains disconnected from sewer	1

Sanitary Conveniences :

Conveniences repaired, reconstructed or improved	2
Light and ventilation improved	—
Sanitary conveniences cleansed or limewashed	1
Defective sanitary conveniences abolished	—
Pedestal washdown W.C. basins fixed	1
Flushing apparatus provided	—

Miscellaneous :

Accumulations removed	1
-------------------------------	---

SERVICE OF NOTICES

Number outstanding 31st December, 1958	8
Informal Notices to execute work or abate nuisances ..	31

Statutory Notices—

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 24—Maintenance of certain lengths of public sewer	31
Public Health Act, 1936, Section 93—Statutory Nuisances	—
Housing Act, 1957, Section 9	—
Factories Act, 1957	—
	31
	—
	70
	—

Number Complied with or Cancelled	58
Number outstanding 31st December, 1959	12

Legal Proceedings—

No legal proceedings were instituted during the year.

HOUSING

Clearance Areas :

Forty-four unfit houses were included in six clearance areas, under the fourth and fifth phases of the Council's five-year slum clearance programme.

Clearance Orders were made in respect of the following forty-two houses.

(i) <i>Cannon Street (No. 3) Clearance Area</i> 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55 and 56 Cannon Street	8 houses
(ii) <i>Cannon Street and Bell Street Clearance Area</i> 42, 43, 44, 45 and 46 Cannon Street ; 26 Bell Street	6 houses
(iii) <i>West Villa Cottages Clearance Area</i> 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 West Villa Cottages	16 houses
(iv) <i>Brook Street East Yard Clearance Area</i> 1, 2 and 3 Brook Street East Yard	3 houses
(v) <i>Buckwell End (No. 3) Clearance Area</i> 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 Buckwell End	5 houses
(vi) <i>South Row, Wood Street Clearance Area</i> 1, 2, 3 and 4 South Row	4 houses

Individual Unfit Houses :

Three Demolition Orders and two Closing Orders were made in respect of individual unfit houses. In addition, Demolition Orders were substituted for Closing Orders previously made in respect of twelve houses.

Compensation :

During the year the following payments were made in respect of houses vacated as the result of Clearance and Demolition Orders :—

- (a) Compensation to owner/occupiers under Sections 31 and 61 of the Housing Act, 1957—£1,105 in respect of eight houses.
- (b) Payments under Section 60 of the Housing Act, 1957, in respect of well maintained property—£235 in respect of two houses.

Rehousing :

During the year 59 families (139 persons) displaced from clearance areas, and houses subject to demolition and closing orders were re-housed by the Housing Committee. They were :—

Wellingborough	..	..	40 families	—	102 persons
Finedon	..	..	19 families	—	37 persons

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1959

Clearance Areas and Individual Unfit Houses

(i)	Houses inspected for housing defects	..	..	..	..	116
	Number of inspections made	..	..	..	..	233
(ii)	<i>Clearance Areas :</i>					
	Number of houses demolished	..	..	..	..	50
	Number of persons displaced	..	..	..	..	104
	Number of families displaced	..	..	..	..	44
(ii)	<i>Remedy of Defects :</i>					
	Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied as a result of informal action under the Housing or Public Health Acts	..	..	..	..	3
(iv)	<i>Proceedings under Public Health Act, 1936 :</i>					
	(a) Houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	..	..	..	..	—
	(b) Houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :					
	(i) by owners	..	..	..	..	—
	(ii) by local authority	..	..	..	..	—
(v)	<i>Proceedings under Housing Act, 1957, Part 3 :</i>					
	(a) <i>Section 9.</i>					
	(i) Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	..	..	..	..	—
	(ii) Houses rendered fit after service of notices :					
	(a) by owners	..	..	..	..	—
	(b) by local authority	..	..	..	..	—
	(b) <i>Sections 16 to 18.</i>					
	Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	..	..	..	..	15
	Houses Demolished	..	..	..	..	14
	Houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	..	..	..	..	2
	Parts of Buildings Closed	..	..	..	..	—
	Houses closed pursuant of an undertaking under Section 16 (4)	..	..	..	..	—
	Number of persons displaced	..	..	..	..	40
	Number of families displaced	..	..	..	..	18

HOUSES LET-IN-LODGINGS.

There is an increasingly large number of houses let-in-lodgings in the Urban District, many being occupied by Indian and West Indian immigrants, which can give rise to considerable problems.

This type of accommodation needs to be given closer attention under the special powers provided by the Housing Act, 1957, in order to secure the provision and maintenance of adequate amenities such as water supply, sanitary conveniences, sinks and facilities for the preparation and cooking of food, etc., and the prevention of overcrowded conditions.

No general approach, however, has yet been made to the problem, but isolated cases have been investigated and action taken to reduce overcrowding.

RENT ACT, 1957.

During the year applications for certificates of disrepair were received and dealt with as follows :—

Applications for certificates received	..	..	..	8
Decisions to issue certificates	..	..	..	8
(a) in respect of some but not all defects	..	..		6
(b) in respect of all defects	..	..	..	2
Decisions not to issue certificates	..	..	..	—
Undertakings given by landlords to remedy defects			..	5
(a) undertakings accepted	..	..	..	5
(b) undertakings refused	..	..	..	—
Certificates of Disrepair issued	..	..	..	1
Certificates of Disrepair cancelled by local authority			..	—

STANDARD IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

The House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, came into force on 14th July, and with it the new scheme for the payment of grants towards the cost of installing basic or “standard” amenities in older houses which at present lack them. These include:— a fixed bath or shower in a bathroom; a wash-hand basin; a hot water supply; a satisfactory water closet; and satisfactory food storage facilities.

Before approving an application for a grant, the local authority must be satisfied that the house will not be unfit for human habitation and that it is likely to remain fit and available for use as a dwelling for at least fifteen years. The grants are payable as of right, subject to compliance with certain conditions, and are equal in each case to half the cost of the works, up to a maximum of £155 where all five amenities are provided. They qualify for a 75% Exchequer contribution.

The technical aspects of the Standard Grant Scheme are the responsibility of your Chief Public Health Inspector, while those relating to Discretionary Grants are dealt with by the Engineer and Surveyor.

The following table gives particulars of applications received and approved, and grants paid up to the 31st December.

TABLE D.

Applications			Grants Paid						
Received (No. of dwellings concerned)	Approved (No. of dwellings concerned)		No. of dwellings concerned	Total Amount	Number of amenities provided				
	Owner Occupied	Other Property			Fixed baths or showers	Wash basins	Hot water supplies	Water closets	Food Storage facilities
116	98	8	29	£2,699.9.9d.	25	25	29	7	4

While the number of applications received is gratifying it will be seen that the majority were in respect of owner/occupied dwellings. It is to be hoped that the owners of tenanted property, which form the majority of those requiring improvement will take advantage of the scheme.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Deposited Matter.

The general level of dust pollution from the Wellingborough Iron Company's Works was comparatively low throughout the year due mainly to the fact that only one of the furnaces was in operation, consequently little nuisance resulted from this source. The situation was, however, of a temporary nature, there being some increase in blast furnace emissions towards the end of the year. The Health Committee has kept abreast of the position and continues to watch the position carefully.

Visits were received during the year from the District Inspector of Alkali, etc., Works of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government who is now primarily responsible under the Clean Air Act for the pollution problems resulting from the operation of blast furnaces.

Smoke, Etc.

Complaints concerning the recurring emission of smoke and fumes from the cupolas of an iron foundry in the East Ward were the subject of investigation, the matter having been under observation for some considerable time. In 1958 certain modifications and improvements to the plant were carried out at the request of the local authority, but the resultant position has not been entirely satisfactory. At the end of the year the adoption of further practical measures to abate the nuisance was being considered.

Three cases of offences under the Clean Air Act in respect of the emission of dark smoke from steam raising plant were investigated and informal action taken.

New Furnaces.

Notification of the proposed installation of new furnaces, i.e. those which have a heating capacity exceeding 55,000 B.Th.U's. per hour, as required by Section 3 of the Clean Air Act is normally accepted, with the deposition plans under the building byelaws. Alternatively application may be made to the local authority for "prior approval". If this is given, the installation is automatically deemed to comply with the Act, and no offence is committed if the furnace should subsequently emit smoke. No applications were received during the year.

Measurements.

Particulars of the recorded deposits obtained by the operation of the four standard deposit gauges are shown in Table E and by the accompanying graph.

The operation of two lead peroxide instruments, one at Broad Green and the other at St. Andrew's Crescent, for the purpose of estimating the relative concentration of atmospheric sulphur dioxide again showed results consistent with areas of residential and semi-industrial development in which they are sited. The figures are shown in Table G and indicate the seasonal rise during the winter months, resulting from a greater use of bituminous solid fuel during this period. The figures, however, compare favourably with those of previous years.

Deposited Matter (tons per square mile per month)

January — December, 1959

TABLE E.

<i>Month</i>	<i>Hillside Road</i>	<i>Finedon Road Cooling Tower</i>	<i>Highfield Hospital</i>	<i>Council Depot</i>
January	11.59	12.10	6.21	8.27
February	8.49	5.17	4.19	5.41
March	14.82	9.23	9.94	11.34
April	8.91	5.0	8.63	10.53
May	17.73	8.22	9.55	13.21
June	12.41	16.40	— *	11.27
July	14.31	12.89	9.78	9.51
August	18.01	12.04	10.06	9.16
September	26.26	17.47	10.92	10.38
October	22.95	23.76	11.67	14.0
November	9.98	14.65	6.60	9.04
December	19.56	46.16	18.21	9.61
Average per month	15.42	15.26	11.25	10.14

* *Faulty result.*

Meteorological Data

Table showing monthly rainfall and wind directions

TABLE F.

<i>Month</i>	<i>Rainfall (Highfield Hospital) Ins.</i>	<i>Recorded wind directions shown in percentages</i>							
		<i>N.</i>	<i>N.E.</i>	<i>E.</i>	<i>S.E.</i>	<i>S.</i>	<i>S.W.</i>	<i>W.</i>	<i>N.W.</i>
Jan.	3.37	21.3	6.4	6.3	2.1	14.9	21.3	21.3	6.4
Feb.	0.07	7.3	17.1	4.9	2.5	14.6	19.5	31.7	2.4
March	2.57	4.4	4.5	20.0	2.2	15.6	35.6	13.3	4.4
April	1.89	11.5	3.8	11.6	—	11.5	25.0	13.6	23.0
May	0.41	18.0	30.0	26.0	2.0	4.0	8.0	10.0	2.0
June	0.61	15.4	7.7	5.8	—	9.6	15.4	26.9	19.2
July	2.68	11.5	21.2	7.7	1.9	—	13.5	40.4	3.8
Aug.	1.05	30.2	17.0	1.9	7.5	1.9	15.1	26.4	—
Sept.	—	1.9	37.0	5.6	3.7	11.1	16.7	11.1	12.9
Oct.	1.70	14.6	5.5	1.8	7.3	23.6	23.6	23.6	—
Nov.	1.69	8.0	8.0	4.0	4.0	34.0	26.0	16.0	—
Dec.	3.80	5.7	3.8	7.5	5.7	17.0		20.7	7.5

Estimation of Sulphur by Lead Peroxide Method

January — December, 1959

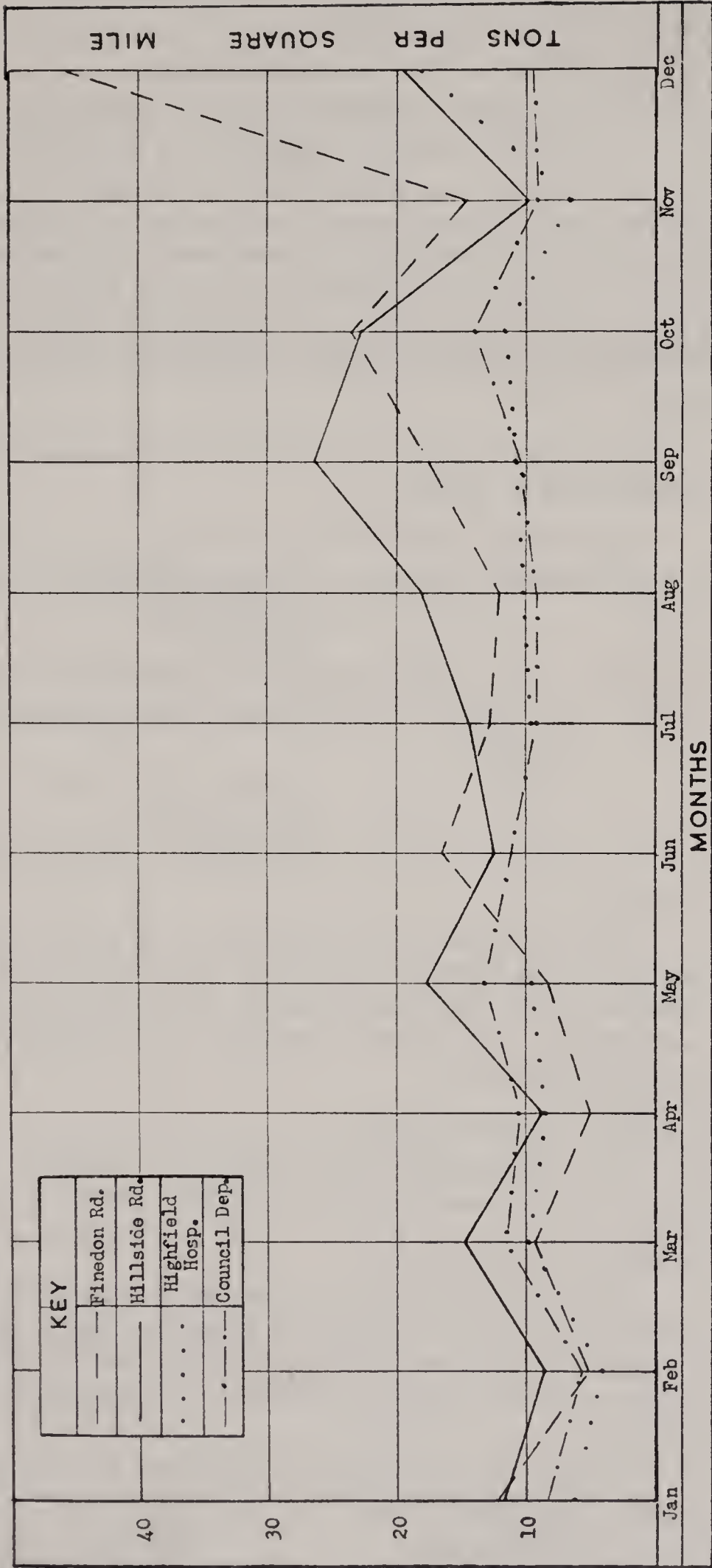
TABLE G.

<i>Month</i>	<i>Weight of SO₂ collected mg/100 sq. cm/day</i>	
	<i>Broad Green</i>	<i>St. Andrew's Crescent</i>
January	2.09	2.34
February	1.68	1.94
March	1.26	1.26
April	0.99	0.92
May	0.68	0.81
June	0.59	0.50
July	0.54	0.56
August	0.63	0.57
September	0.53	0.61
October	1.10	1.12
November	1.39	1.88
December	1.41	1.33

WELLINGBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION 1959

MEASUREMENTS BY STANDARD DEPOSIT GAUGES SHOWING TOTAL DEPOSITED MATTER IN TONS PER SQUARE MILE



INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK AND DAIRIES :

(a) *Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 to 1954.*

No. of registered Dairies (other than dairy farms)	1
No of registered Distributors	31

(b) *Sale of Milk under Special Designations.*

All milk sold by retail in the Urban District must be “designated”, i.e. either Pasteurised, Sterilised or Tuberculin Tested.

In February the County Council decided to delegate to the district Council their powers and duties under the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949 to 1953, including the licensing and control of the one pasteurising plant in the Urban District. This plant is regularly inspected, and systematic sampling of bottled pasteurised milk is undertaken.

Licensing.

Forty-eight licences were granted authorising the use of special designations as follows :—

(i) <i>Dealer's (Pasteuriser's) Licence</i>	1
(ii) <i>Dealer's Licences</i> —“Tuberculin Tested”	10
“Pasteurised”	18
“Sterilised”	14
(iii) <i>Supplementary Licences</i> —in relation to milk sold by retail in the Urban District from premises outside—	
“Tuberculin Tested”	2
“Pasteurised”	2
“Sterilised”	1

(c) *Sampling.*

Eighty samples of raw, and processed milk were submitted for testing to the Public Health Laboratory Service at Northampton. The results are shown in Table H. 83% of all samples tested were satisfactory. 84% of those relating to “Designated” milk passed the prescribed tests.

(d) *Testing of Washed Bottles.*

111 bottle samples were tested for sterility. All were satisfactory, with a mean bottle count of less than 600.

(e) *Testing of Churn Rinses.*

This is the first year this has been undertaken. Metal churns are, by their nature and use, a potential source of contamination and their proper sterilisation is of the utmost importance. The taking of churn rinses is therefore a further link in the chain of control.

During the year fifty-four rinses were taken at the pasteurising dairy. The results were :—

Satisfactory	48 (Colony count per churn— not more than 50,000.
Fairly Satisfactory	2 (50,000—250,000).
Unsatisfactory	4 (250,000 and over).

TABLE H.

<i>Class of Milk</i>	<i>No. of Samples Tested</i>	<i>Tests</i>	<i>No. of Samples</i>	
			<i>Passed</i>	<i>Failed</i>
Pasteurised	32	Phosphatase	32	—
		Methylene Blue	31	1
Sterilised	—	Turbidity	—	—
Tuberculin Tested	36	Methylene Blue	26	10
Raw Undesignated	12	Methylene Blue	9	3

Note—In the case of seven of the samples which failed the Methylene Blue test the laboratory storage temperature exceeded 65°F.

ICE - CREAM :

The number of ice-cream premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, at 31st December, was :—

- (a) For Manufacture, Storage and Sale 2
- (b) For Storage and Sale only 121

Sampling.

Fourteen samples of ice-cream and water ices were tested by the Public Health Laboratory Service. The results are shown in Table I.

TABLE I.

<i>Class of Mix</i>	<i>Type of Sample</i>	<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>Laboratory Report</i>			
			<i>Gd. I.</i>	<i>Gd. II.</i>	<i>Gd. III.</i>	<i>Gd. IV.</i>
Pasteurised	Pre-wrapped	5	5	—	—	—
Pasteurised	Unwrapped	5	2	2	—	1
Cold Mix	Pre-wrapped	—	—	—	—	—
Cold Mix	Unwrapped	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS		10	7	2	—	1
Ice Lollies (Water Ices)		4	All Satisfactory. B. Coli absent in 1/10 ml., 1 ml., and 10 ml. quantities.			

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION :

Of the eight licensed slaughterhouses in the Urban District, five were regularly and one intermittently used throughout the year.

The total through-put of animals was 22,444 an increase of 17% over 1958 and 34% over 1957.

The following table shows the progressive increase in the number of animals slaughtered during the last five years.

TABLE J.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Cattle</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Total</i>
1955	532	6	2,672	11,120	14,330
1956	587	4	2,484	12,865	15,940
1957	502	4	2,890	13,350	16,746
1958	350	4	2,709	16,197	19,260
1959	542	3	3,431	18,468	22,444

Routine post-mortem inspection of all animals was carried out, 1,149 visits being made to slaughterhouses for the purpose. Particulars of meat and offal condemned as unfit for human consumption are given in Tables K, L & M.

The incidence of tuberculosis in cattle and pigs was 3.8% and 1.9% respectively.

Five cases of C. Bovis were detected in adult cattle and were dealt with in accordance with normal practice.

Although not compulsory in view of the revocation of the Meat (Sterilising and Staining) Regulations, 1957, a considerable amount of condemned meat and offal was stained before removal from slaughterhouses.

The Slaughterhouses (Meat Inspection Grant) Regulations, 1958.

These Regulations provide for payment to local authorities for the inspection of animals in excess of a figure—based on population—representing the reasonable requirements of the district.

During the year ended 31st March, 1960, the number of animals inspected represented 53% “excess or export” meat, and a grant payment of £98.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1958 :

The number of licensed slaughtermen on the register at 31st December, 1959, was 32. The majority are employed in slaughtering establishments in the Urban District.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955 :

- (a) The quantity of tinned and other foods rejected as unfit for human consumption is given in Table N. Seventy-seven visits were made to shops and warehouses for the purpose and 169 condemned certificates were issued. Most examinations are carried out on receipt of a request from the trader who requires a certificate to obtain credit from his wholesaler and to balance his stocks.

(b) Three cases concerning the sale of food contaminated or otherwise unfit for human consumption were investigated following complaint by purchasers, viz.

- | | |
|---|---|
| (a) A carton of Chocolate Spread contaminated with the larva <i>Ephestia elutella</i> (warehouse moth). | Taken up with manufacturers with written warning to wholesaler. |
| (b) Wrapped loaf infected by mould. | Taken up with manufacturers. |
| (c) Bottle of milk containing holly leaf. | Considered by Health Committee. Vendor interviewed and written warning given. |

(c) *Compositional quality of Food and Drugs.*

No special cases were referred to the County Food and Drugs Inspector during the year.

The following extract from the report of the Chief Food and Drugs Inspector (A. E. Waller, Esq.), giving particulars of samples procured in the Urban District has been supplied by the County Council.

				<i>Brought forward</i>	..	111
" Milk	..	..	82	Whisky	..	3
Sausages	..	..	7	Butter	..	3
Cheese	..	..	4	Margarine	..	1
Meat Paste	..	..	2	Soups	..	4
Potted Salmon	..	..	1	Aspirin	..	1
Raisin Pudding	..	..	1	Condensed Milk	..	1
Jam	..	..	1	Cream	..	1
Soft Drinks	..	..	4	Cough Drops	..	1
Ice Cream	..	..	4	Liquid Paraffin	..	1
Potatoes	..	..	4	Peas	..	1
Crispbread	..	..	1	Meat Products	..	5
<i>Carried forward</i>				TOTAL	..	133

Remarks.

For the second year in succession all the samples of milk were genuine. In view of the number of milk samples taken in the period this is a very satisfactory report.

Two samples of cheese, bought as cream cheese, were found to be deficient of the 50 per cent. of fat which cream cheese should contain. The samples were obtained from a shop selling Continental type foods and the seller had to be advised of the special standard required for the sale of cream cheese in this country.

All the other samples were completely satisfactory."

Preserved foods.

The number of premises registered under Section 16 for the manufacture of sausages, preserved food, etc., was 36—no change.

TABLE K.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED
IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	<i>Cattle excluding Cows</i>			<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Total</i>
	<i>Bulls</i>	<i>Steers</i>	<i>Heifers</i>					
Number killed ..	—	236	301	5	3	3,431	18,468	22,444
Number inspected	—	236	301	5	3	3,431	18,468	22,444
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>								
Whole carcases condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	6
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	36	44	—	—	22	653	755
Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	—	15.2	14.6	—	—	0.6	3.5	3.4
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>								
Whole carcases condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	9	11	1	—	—	357	378
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ..	—	3.8	3.6	20.0	—	—	1.9	1.7
<i>Cysticercosis</i>								
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	3	2	—	—	—	—	5
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ..	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	2
Generalized and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE L.

CARCASSES CONDEMNED AS TOTALLY UNFIT

<i>Diseases</i>	<i>Bulls</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Steers</i>	<i>Heifers</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Peritonitis Septic	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pericarditis Septic	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia Acute	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Septic	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Septicæmia	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Septic Wounds and Injuries	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
TOTAL	—	—	—	—	1	—	6

TABLE M.

TOTAL WEIGHTS OF MEAT AND ORGANS CONDEMNED

	<i>Tuberculosis</i>				<i>Other Diseases</i>			
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>cwts.</i>	<i>qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>cwts.</i>	<i>qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Carcase Meat	1	—	1	11	—	10	1	8
Organs and Viscera	—	7	3	23	1	1	1	1
TOTAL	1	8	1	6	1	11	2	9

Total Weight Condemned — 2 Tons 19 cwts. 3 qrs. 15 lbs.

CYCTICERCUS BOVIS

Number of Animals Infested	5
Sites—External Masseter Muscles	2
Internal Masseter Muscles	1
Heart Musculature	1
Other Sites	1

PARTICULARS OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS EXAMINED AND REJECTED AS UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

TABLE N.

<i>Commodity</i>	<i>Weight lbs.</i>	<i>Commodity</i>	<i>Weight lbs.</i>
<i>Tinned Goods :</i>		<i>General Items :</i>	
Fish	8	Bacon	4
Fruit	195	Beef	67
Fruit Juices	3	Cereals	7
Ham	463	Fish (wet)	189
James and Preserves	36	Fruit (dried)	53
Meat (various)	761	Haricot Beans	112
Milk (evaporated)	10	Poultry	132
Milk Puddings	1	Sausages	10
Ox Tongues	6		
Soups	2		
Vegetables	47		

Total Weight — 18 cwts. 3 qrs. 6 lbs.

FOOD HYGIENE :

Four infringements of the Food Hygiene Regulations relating to premises were found and dealt with by informal notice. Four written warnings were given for offences relating to smoking while handling open food, legal proceedings were instituted against one offender, who had been previously convicted for a similar offence in 1956. A fine of £10 was imposed in this case.

The inspection of food premises under the Food Hygiene Regulations was again necessarily limited in view of the overall commitments of the department and unfortunately it has not yet been possible to undertake a systematic programme of inspection which is now long overdue.

Sixty-five inspections of food shops and other premises were made during the year, most of which were undertaken in conjunction with visits for other purposes. In addition frequent visits were made to the general market, which has an average of twenty food stalls.

The importance of food hygiene as an aspect of public health administration is now fully recognised. Experience has shown that with the passage of time and the constant changes in staff, standards and habits among food handlers tend to become lax. While it is true that education is the basis of good hygienic practices, propaganda alone is not an adequate substitute for the vigilance and control afforded by systematic inspection by the Public Health Inspector.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

208 visits were made in connection with the inspection and supervision of new and existing drainage, and 38 tests were applied. 77 cases of obstructed sewers and drains were dealt with.

Cesspools, etc.

The emptying of septic tanks and cesspools was carried out on request on fifty-nine occasions. As the Council does not possess its own vehicle, there is a standing arrangement with the Rushden U.D.C. for the hire of their machine for this work.

The charges and total cost for the year were as follows :—

Domestic Properties in Nest Lane—Fixed Charge of 25/—.

Other Properties—At Cost.

TABLE O.

<i>Number Emptied</i>	<i>Hiring Charges</i>	<i>Recharged</i>	<i>% Cost borne by Council</i>
Nest Lane 40	£71 13s. 6d.	£50 0s. 6d.	30.3%
Other Property .. 19	£40 16s. 0d.	£40 16s. 0d.	—
TOTAL 59	£112 9s. 6d.	£19 16s. 0d.	19.3%

SWIMMING POOLS AND BATHING PLACES

Eleven samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination from the following :—

Swimming pool, The School	3 samples
Children's paddling pool, The Zoo Park	6 samples
Children's paddling pool, The Embankment	2 samples

Appropriate action was taken where the result of examination was unsatisfactory.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

There has been no special caravan problem in the Urban District, the use of caravans being confined to a few small sites situated in the town area, each occupied by one or two dwellings only. Three such sites are occupied as winter quarters by travelling showmen between the months of October and March each year, and are on the whole well maintained.

Renewal licences were granted for the occupation of six caravans on three sites which have, for some years, been used permanently as residential accommodation.

Action was necessary in one instance in connection with the unauthorised use of a caravan.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND DISINFECTION

Forty-five visits were made in connection with cases of notifiable infectious diseases.

No. of houses or parts of houses disinfected—	
(a) following infectious disease	25
(b) on special request (other causes)	3
No. of articles separately disinfected	—
No. of articles destroyed	28

The steam disinfection of articles of bedding and clothing are dealt with by Rushden U.D.C. when necessary.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

Premises registered for the use of filling materials	1
Premises licensed for (a) Manufacture of rag flock	Nil
(b) Storage only	1

Standards for the cleanliness of filling materials are prescribed by Regulation. No samples were taken for testing during the year.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Four licences for the keeping of pet shops were granted during the year. Conditions were satisfactory.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

The total number of registered factories and other premises in the Urban District at the end of the year was 211. These included :—

Factories with mechanical power	176
Factories without mechanical power	20
Other registrable works	15

Sixteen inspections were made during the year. No written notices served and no notifications of defects were referred by the Factory Inspector.

Homework.

Half-yearly lists were received from 23 employers and 3 other authorities notifying the employment of 268 outworkers on specified classes of work in the Urban District (August list). Particulars relating to 168 outworkers were also notified to 10 other local authorities.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Rodent Control.

There was a slight increase in the number of complaints received and infestations found, but on the whole the general level of infestation has been kept reasonably low. Assiduous attention was given to potential sources of infestation including the refuse tips and sewage farms. No major infestation was reported or found.

The baiting of sewers for rat infestation was undertaken in June with the use of “Warfarin”—the blood anti-coagulant rodenticide. Not being a direct poison, it does not induce bait shyness, and its use is generally more economical and effective than with other poisons. A system of baiting was adopted extending over eight days—which gives a better assessment of the position. Particulars are as follows :—

	Wellingborough	Finedon
Number of manholes, etc., baited ..	55	36
Number showing infestation (4th day) ..	27 (49%)	3 (8%)
Number showing infestation (8th day) ..	9 (16%)	1 (3%)

The services of the rodent operative were given to the Urban Districts of Raunds and Irthlingborough under standing arrangements. Eighty-seven visits were made to these authorities.

The following is an analysis of the work carried out :—

(a) *Surface Infestations.*

(a) Properties Inspected :					
(i)	As a result of notification	..	..	104	
(ii)	Routine visit or survey	..	..	128	
				—	232
(b) Infestations found :					
(i)	Rats—Major	..	..	..	—
(ii)	Rats—Minor	..	..	..	139
(iii)	Mice only	..	..	..	28
				—	167
(c) Infested Properties treated by Local Authority :					
(i)	Private Dwellings	..	..	..	146
(ii)	Business and Industrial Premises				
	(including those under servicing agreements)	..	..	..	36
(iii)	Agricultural Properties	..	..		1
(iv)	Local Authority Properties	..	..		33
				—	216
(d)	Total visits made by Rodent Operative	..			1,275

Annual Servicing Agreements.

Number in force	..	..	..	..	8
Total Value	..	..	..	..	£116

Control of Feral Pigeons.

A serious nuisance had developed in the town centre over a period of some years as a result of feral pigeons. Buildings were being soiled and pavements of the main shopping area were constantly covered with droppings, making very frequent cleansing essential.

The birds appeared to feed in the surrounding countryside during the mornings, returning to the town in the early afternoon and subsequently roosting on buildings, principally in Market Street.

In January, steps were taken to deal with the situation by the erection of a specially designed cage trap which was sited on a large flat roof in the town centre. During a sixteen week trapping period until the end of May, 121 pigeons were caught including sixteen ringed birds. In the case of the latter, the owners were traced through the local branch of the National Homing Union and the birds returned on request.

The operation which was undertaken in close collaboration with the Infestation Control Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, was very successful.

VERMINOUS DISINFESTATION

The following cases of infestation were notified and dealt with during the year. The number of wasps' nests destroyed during the summer months was exceptionally high. They were dealt with free of charge, mostly following complaint.

Ants	..	..	3	Flies	..	..	3
Beetles	..	..	2	Wasps	..	..	101
Bugs	..	..	1	Other cases	..		1
Fleas	..	..	3				

